

5 A CATALYST COMPOSITION, A PROCESS FOR PREPARING
 THE CATALYST COMPOSITION AND A USE
 OF THE CATALYST COMPOSITION

ABSTRACT

10 A catalyst composition comprising a support having a
 surface area of at least 500 m²/kg, and deposited on the
 support:
 silver metal,
 a metal or component comprising rhenium, tungsten,
15 molybdenum or a nitrate- or nitrite-forming compound, and
 a Group IA metal or component comprising a Group IA
 metal having an atomic number of at least 37, and in
 addition potassium,
 wherein the value of the expression $(Q_K / R) + Q_{HIA}$ is in
20 the range of from 1.5 to 30 mmole/kg, wherein Q_{HIA} and Q_K
 represent the quantities in mmole/kg of the Group IA
 metal having an atomic number of at least 37 and
 potassium, respectively, present in the catalyst
 composition, the ratio of Q_{HIA} to Q_K is at least 1:1, the
25 value of Q_K is at least 0.01 mmole/kg, and R is a
 dimensionless number in the range of from 1.5 to 5, the
 units mmole/kg being relative to the weight of the
 catalyst composition.